

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087517
ORIGIN EA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/RA-PMU:MEILAND:GMD
APPROVED BY EA/RA - ROBERT J. MARTENS
EA/ANP-TWAJDA
DOD/ISA:LTC. EIRICH
EA:TIMBS-MEASTON

-----001491 052111Z /64

O R 052037Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0070

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087517

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI, SN

SUBJECT: P-3 FLIGHTS THROUGH SINGAPORE

REFS. (A) SINGAPORE 1534; (B) SINGAPORE 1489; (C) CINCPAC
- 010110Z MAR 78; (C) CINCPAC 310407Z MAR 78;
- (E) STATE 246002 (76)

1. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE FROM REFTELS A-D, APPROVAL HAS BEEN
SECURED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE FOR US NAVY P-3
AIRCRAFT TO TRANSIT SINGAPORE ON FLIGHTS TO AND FROM THE
INDIAN OCEAN. FLIGHTS WILL BE ROUTED THROUGH SINGAPORE
BEGINNING SOMETIME AFTER APRIL 5 ON A SCHEDULE TO BE
ARRANGED BY CINCPACFLT. INITIAL FREQUENCY WILL BE NO
MORE THAN FOUR FLIGHTS PER MONTH, WITH A POSSIBLE INCREASE
TO 8-12 FLIGHTS PER MONTH AFTER SATISFACTORY PROCEDURES
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HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

2. THE PURPOSE OF TRANSITING SINGAPORE IS TO PROVIDE CREW
REST, MAINTENANCE, AND REFUELING. SINCE NO US PERSONNEL
WILL BE STATIONED IN SINGAPORE TO SUPPORT THE P-3'S, SOME
SUPPORT WILL BE REQUESTED OF THE AUSTRALIAN UNIT AT TENGAH
AIR BASE. THIS ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF INTER-

MITTENT DISCUSSION WITH THE GOA FOR SOME TIME, DATING AT LEAST BACK TO OCTOBER 1976 (E.G., REF. E). THE NATURE OF

THE ASSISTANCE REQUESTED WILL BE DETERMINED AT THE WORKING LEVEL, BUT WILL BE LIMITED IN GENERAL TO SUCH ACTIVITIES AS REFUELING, GENERAL GROUND HANDLING, CREW WEATHER BRIEFING, AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY APPROACH GOA AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND REQUEST AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR P-3 FLIGHTS OUT OF SINGAPORE DRAWING ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- AS GOA IS AWARE, US HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH SINGAPORE FOR SOME TIME TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR TRANSIT OF SINGAPORE FOR P-3 FLIGHTS TO AND FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN.

-- APPROVAL FOR TRANSIT HAS NOW BEEN OBTAINED FROM GOS.

-- NO US PERSONNEL WILL BE STATIONED IN SINGAPORE.

-- IN PAST DISCUSSIONS, THE GOA INDICATED IT WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE P-3'S FROM ITS UNIT AT TENGAH AIR BASE. THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE HAS INDICATED NO OBJECTION TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. THE GOA IS REQUESTED TO RECONFIRM ITS WILLINGNESS TO BE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSISTANCE.

-- IN GENERAL, THE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED WOULD BE LIMITED TO SUCH ACTIVITIES AS REFUELING, GENERAL GROUND HANDLING, CREW WEATHER BRIEFINGS AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE. WE WOULD EXPECT THE DETAILS OF SUCH ASSISTANCE TO BE DETERMINED AT THE WORKING LEVEL.

-- THE INITIAL FREQUENCY OF FLIGHTS WOULD BE NO MORE THAN FOUR PER MONTH, WITH A POSSIBLE INCREASE TO 8-12 FLIGHTS PER MONTH AFTER SATISFACTORY PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

-- AS IT IS HOPED THAT FLIGHTS CAN BEGIN IN EARLY APRIL, EARLY CONFIRMATION OF AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

4. APPROPRIATE OFFICERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE IMPENDING TRANSIT FLIGHTS AND REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.
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